

Longacre's Ledger

The Journal of The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collectors' Society

Volume 31.1, Issue #111

www.fly-inclub.org

April 2021



***Treasures from the
Bob R. Simpson
Collection Part I to IV
By Richard Snow***



***Digit Punches
By Richard Snow***



***What happened to one
of the finest Snow-5
1856 Flying Eagles?
By Greg Slaughter***



***How COVID has affect-
ed Coin Collecting
By Charmy Harker***

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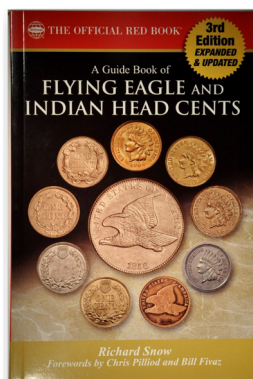
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Our mission is to gather and disseminate information related to James B. Longacre (1794-1869), with emphasis on his work as Chief Engraver of the Mint (1844 -1869) with a primary focus on his Flying Eagle and Indian Cent coinage.
Founded 1991

www.fly-inclub.org

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Please help the editor in updating any errors or changes. If you would like to become a state representative (there can be more than one per state) please contact the State Representative Chair, Charmy Harker.

On the cover...
1880 with the date made from a broken digit punch.

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2021 Vol. 31.1 Issue #111

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Submission guidelines

If you have a substantive article you would like to contribute, please follow these guidelines:

- ✓ If you have internet access, you can send text to the editor's e-mail address below. Please send images in separate files.
- ✓ You may also send files and images on a CD-W disk or other storage device to the editor's address below. Storage devices will be returned upon request.
- ✓ Images of material can be made by the editor for use in the Journal. Please include the necessary return postage with the submission.
- ✓ Please feel free to contact the editor if you have any questions.

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#113 2021 Vol. 31.3 ...	November 1, 2021	FUN 2022
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Special thanks to Charmy Harker
for proofreading the articles.

The President's Letter *By Chris Pilliod*

This is my 69th President's Letter and I typically look at counterstamps as an afterthought. Most of what I find is a couple letters or a name. Rarely anything with "pizzazz". But a couple weeks ago on a benign Saturday I made my way over to New Oxford, Pennsylvania and a coin shop I had visited a few times in the past. New Oxford is a small rural town in southern Pennsylvania, about halfway between York and Gettysburg, mostly unspoiled by its aging years. Even if I didn't find anything it would be a nice drive through a land that must have looked the same as that early July 1863 day when the Battle of Gettysburg broke out.

Over the course of the pandemic I have visited shops in Lancaster, York, Harrisburg, Bethlehem, Allentown, Easton, Pottstown, and even one in the Poconos (but alas, it was closed). I really found Easton and Harrisburg to be wonderful cities to visit. Believe it or not, in the middle of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg has a minor league baseball stadium on an island, with a bridge you walk over to.

One of the first double-row boxes the owner brought out was of course Flying Eagle and Indian cents. These were mostly "mill run" as my Dad would say. But he made up in quantity for the lack of quality. Years ago I remember an old wise dealer friend telling me one thing he had learned over the years in looking at estates was that while he sees a lot of bronze cents from the 1860's and early 1870's in Fair and AG condition, he rarely sees AG copper-nickel cents. They certainly made the rounds as much as or more than their bronze counterparts, but they just didn't wear as quick, because of their higher hardness. Nickel is considerably harder than copper. When employed as an alloying agent of 12%, nickel increases the hardness considerably.

That knowledge, combined with the fact that interesting things can be found on copper-nickel reverse, I always turn them over to look for cuds and die breaks. There must have been close to 150 of them. And sure enough a couple times I said

"bammmm, here's something! I was surprised I came upon a few counterstamps in the box. Mainly boring initials and labeled accordingly by the dealer; but one that was not labeled at all really caught my eye-- a merchant token, probably a precursor to Civil War storecard tokens. It was on an 1859 Indian Cent and in small print was stamped:

"FOR BARGAINS IN DRY GOODS
GO TO
W. BELL'S
5 EXCHANGE
ERIE, PA"

Like I said, I am not a counterstamp expert, but that one caught my eye, especially being from my home state of Pennsylvania. And I don't often see as much verbiage as this. He had it marked \$10 so how can a fella go wrong? The interesting thing was of all the coins he had labeled as "counterstamps" in the box he didn't denote the 1859 as such. When I finished with the boxes he asked if I wanted to look at his counterstamp box. "I thought I just did," I replied facetiously.

On the drive home through the dormant hills of southeast Pennsylvania I made a point to do further research on this counterstamp, especially since I had visited Erie on a few occasions. My visits to Erie focused on business, as industry has a foothold there—steel and railroad have a long history in Erie. General Electric still builds their enormous rail locomotives there. I always try to take in the sights, especially beautiful Presque Isle.





Erie is the fourth largest city in Pennsylvania, behind Philly, Pittsburgh and Allentown. While that end of Lake Erie has some of the most beautiful color water I have ever seen, giving the nickname “Gem City.” It’s hard to describe the color of Lake Erie’s water without seeing it on a bright sunny day.

But Erie also has a bit of a notorious image associated with it. Not long after we moved to Pennsylvania, a pizza delivery guy became national news after he dropped off a large pepperoni. The customers strapped a time-sensitive bomb around his neck and sent him off to rob a bank on their behest, but the poor guy didn’t make it to the bank. In one part of the city residents claim there is a buzzing noise that is not traceable to anything. In the county are places with the names of Ax Murder Hollow and Gudgeonville Bridge. UFO’s have been sighted off Presque Isle. If you can get through every taping of “Forensic Files” (like me) you can bet when they start out saying “On a cold winter night in Erie, Pennsylvania...” that you’re in for a doosie of an episode.

The first question to be answered about the 1859 Indian cent was it stamped or hand-carved, like a Love Token. Visually it appeared to be stamped and that would certainly facilitate mass production, but I wanted to be sure. If it were hand-carved that would certainly add a lot of appeal to the collector.

The reverse was planed by a rough-turn lathe, effacing all evidence of the wreath and “ONE CENT”. I can’t be 100% sure but my study of the piece also supports the conclusion that but for a single exception, all letters were hand-stamped. This makes logical sense. But it was curious how they imparted the letters. It appears in some cases the letters are gang-style, with several letters in the same punch. The entire word “FOR” and “DRY,” as well as “ERIE” employed a gang-style punch, while the remainder seem to be individually hand punched, with a solitary exception. The apostrophe of “BELL’S” seemed to be placed in by hand. While most letters were punched, the evidence shows at least one different punch for the same letter was used.

Now the hard part. The provenance and history of the piece. I started out with a Google search, which gave me the addresses

and the mouth-watering menus for all the locations of Taco Bell in Erie, Pennsylvania. But I could not find any match for “Exchange Street,” which was frustrating. The problem I would discover is Exchange is not a street. Lots of Googling and researching old plat maps of Erie would uncover no mention or reference of Exchange Street could be found. I inquired to a renowned Erie historian but never heard back.

My best educated guess is W Bell’s enterprise was located in the Exchange Building in the center of the business district in downtown Erie. And “5” refers to the room or location within the building. It was here William Bell busily transacted his wholesale and retail dry goods operation. He sold carpetings, oil cloths and probably a little bit of everything else from the 1860s to the 1890s. Collectors believe this is actually the very first Civil War token issued. All known examples are on 1859 U.S. cent issues.

The piece is referenced as Brunk B-525 and Rulau 360A-1do Erie, Pennsylvania Civil War Token. The reference book by Fuld is PA 360A-1Do with a stated rarity 6+. It is reported there are only 20 pieces known on 1859 cents with this reverse. Other accounts suggest 40 to 60 known examples. But in performing some internet searches I feel the number is higher than this, maybe approaching 100 extant examples.

Having said this, it seems there are never enough of this counterstamped penny to satisfy both the counterstamp and CWT collecting communities, as all listings enjoy significant bidding. With hammer prices in the \$50 to \$100 range this is an excellent addition to any Indian Cent or token collector’s cabinet. The piece offered a nice stroll down both the numismatic and historical lane. Just the kind of journey I love! I have maybe three or four other counterstamps I find particularly story-telling as well, but there was just something about this piece laying unmarked and random in a box of Indian Cents.

The moral of the story is you just never know when your next journey is leaving port. I would wager that several of the readers have a similar piece sitting in their collection waiting for their story to be told.



***“The Secrets of Flying Eagle and Indian Cents”
An eSeminar by Rick Snow
on the ANA eLearning Channel***

Rick Snow’s seminar all about Flying Eagle and Indian cents is now live on the American Numismatic Association’s You Tube channel.

The two-hour talk covers history, grading, varieties, problem coins and counterfeits. Also covered within these topics are patterns and proofs.

A link can be found at Rick’s website:

www.indiancent.com



The back issues of the Longacre’s Ledger are now accessible on the Newman Numismatic Portal. The site is managed by the Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Access is free to all and the files can be viewed at the following link:

<https://nnp.wustl.edu/library/publisherdetail/521577>

Special thanks to Len Augsburger for working on this.

Announcements

Norman Thomas Collection to be sold by Goldberg’s. Norm collected Indian cent varieties and the collection contains many hard to find pieces. There are over 350 lots containing about 1,000 coins. The coins will be sold unreserved on June 13-16, 2021 at their office in Santa Monica, CA and on-line at www.goldberg-coins.com.

Robert “Woody” Kieferber’s collection of MS65RD-MS67RD graded by PCGS is one of the top registry sets in the PCGS registry. It will be sold by Heritage later this year at their Dallas office and at www.HA.com.

Did you receive your Longacre’s Ledger for December 2020? The U.S. Mail was slowed during this period and many members got their issue late. If you did not receive your ledger and would like a copy for your library, please contact the editor via email. You will be asked to reimburse the postage cost via Paypal.

1897 Proof Indian Cent sells for \$108,000



The March 2021 “Baltimore” Auction by Stack’s Bowers was held in Las Vegas due to the cancellation of the Baltimore Whitman show. Lot 4033 was an 1897 PR67+DCAM by PCGS/CAC. It sold for a record price of \$108,000.

The coin was originally graded PR67CAM PCGS/CAC when it sold in 2019 (SB 8/19:5046) for \$27,500 and in 2014 (HA 2/14:5014) for \$28,200.

This is the sole finest graded Deep Cameo example of any year graded at PCGS.

Building an Indian Cent Variety Collection

By Norman Thomas

I started collecting coins as a teenager getting my Boy Scout Coin Collecting Merit Badge. This small collection grew to a number of Whitman boards until I left for college. The boards remained at my parent's for the next number of years while I graduated from college, got married and divorced and spent five years working in the Caribbean. In 1980, I married my second wife and moved to Atlanta, Georgia to work and help her raise her two sons from her previous marriage.

As we got established in Atlanta my parents brought my old Whitman boards to me and my interest in coin collecting was rekindled. I ventured out to the 1987 ANA Convention in Atlanta looking for an area of collecting that would interest me and be in my budget. After spending time walking the bourse I decided to relax and sat in on the EAC meeting. The presentation was interesting and the conversation going on around me was even more interesting. At the time I did not know the two gentlemen on either side of me but would learn that one was John Wright and the other was Walter Breen.

By the end of the meeting my interest in scientific taxonomy and the search and identification of large cent varieties clicked. I spent the rest of the convention looking at large cents on the bourse floor and gaining information. I joined the EAC and began collecting middle and late date large cents by Newcomb number. Over the years I collected a nearly complete set of middle and late dates by Newcomb number and had many late date varieties in multiple die states.

In the late 1990s I joined the Metropolitan Coin Club of Atlanta and met the king of varieties, Bill Fivaz. Bill is a friend and great mentor and got me interested in varieties of other denominations. He got me into cherry-picking. Being a copper aficionado I became interested in the varieties of Indian Cents and began collecting these. For me it was the fun of the hunt that makes this so interesting. I would estimate that only about a third of the coins in my collection were purchased attributed.

In early 2009 I found a low grade 1874 Indian cent with a lump on the neck. Over the next 8 or 9 months at every coin show I could attend I hunted for additional examples of this variety. I finally located another one at the Mid-Georgia Coin show and about a month later a third example was located by Bill Fivaz, which I obtained. The three coins were submitted to Rick Snow and attributed as a new variety, Snow-7.

As my search for varieties continued I started picking up error coins; double and triple struck coins, off-center coins, clipped planchets and others. One of my favorites is an 1887 cent struck through a piece of the die that had fallen out on an earlier strike.

My interests in Indian cents also led me to investigate the World's Fairs from 1893 to 1909. The 1893 Columbian exposition produced the first elongated coins and the 1901 Pan-American Exposition introduced encased coins. All in all Indian cent variety and error collecting has been a rewarding experience. I would like to thank all those who helped me along the way, Especially Bill Fivaz and Rick Snow.

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1857 Flying Eagle Cent, Snow-16.
NGC graded MS-63. Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$750 - 800



1857 Flying Eagle Cent.
PCGS graded MS-62. Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$525 - 550



1858/7 Flying Eagle Cent, Snow-1.
PCGS graded VF-35. Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$650 - 700



1860 Indian Head Cent.
PCGS graded MS-64. Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$480 - 500



1867/67 Indian Head Cent, Snow-1.
FS-301. ANACS graded EF-40.
Estimate: \$480 - 500



1870 Indian Head Cent, Snow-8, FS-302.
PCGS graded AU-53. Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$480 - 500



1870 Indian Head Cent, Snow-30.
PCGS graded AU-58.
Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$480 - 500



1873 Indian Head Cent, Doubled "LIBERTY",
Snow-1. PCGS graded VF-35 Brown.
Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$1,250 - 1,350



1874 Indian Head Cent.
NGC graded Proof 65 Red & Brown.
Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$750 - 800



1874 Indian Head Cent, Snow-8.
PCGS graded MS-65 Red & Brown.
Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$550 - 600



1875 Indian Head Cent, Snow-15.
NGC graded MS-65 Brown.
Estimate: \$480 - 500



1879 Indian Head Cent.
NGC graded Proof 65 Red & Brown.
Estimate: \$480 - 500

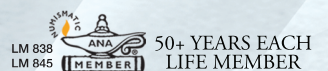


1886 Indian Head Cent, Variety 2.
PCGS graded MS-64 Red & Brown.
Eagle Eye Photo Seal.
Estimate: \$2,300 - 2,500

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Treasures from the Bob R. Simpson collection, Part I to IV

The Bob R. Simpson collection of patterns was assembled over the last decade through Legend Numismatics. Completeness and quality were the guiding principles behind each acquisition.

The collection was consigned to Heritage. So as not to disrupt the market, the coins were broken out into different sales. We have grouped the cent patterns back into order for this article. Part I was sold on September 17, 2020, Part II on November 22, 2020, Part III on January 20, 2021 and Part IV on February 23, 2021.

In September of 2020, I drove 1,000 miles from Tucson to Dallas with my son, Kenny to view the entire Simpson collection at the new Heritage office complex near the Dallas-Ft. Worth airport. It is a huge building and could easily hold a medium-sized coin show. With the Covid-19 pandemic raging, and all the major shows being cancelled, this is exactly what they have decided to do. Auctions are for the present, held entirely on-line. To view lots of such an extensive collection such as the Simpson pattern collection, you have to go to Dallas.

We reserved our time well in advance so that we would have enough time to see what we needed to see. We had a private room with a trained attendant. We had all day to study the entire collection. It was a treat to see the Garrett/Simpson 1792 Silver Center cent, Judd-1. This is probably the highlight of the entire collection. It is graded SP67BN by PCGS. Simpson bought it for \$5 million in 2012. It sold for a bit over \$2.5 million in the January 20, 2021 sale, lot #3004.



The 1792 Silver Center cent, Judd-1.

We were also able to view the phenomenal Partrick collection of colonial coins. This was a rare treat, as these coins have never been displayed together before. Kenny and I had a chance to see all the rarities, like the Garrett/Partrick Brasher Doubloon, NGC MS65. I told Kenny that I was in the room back in 1979 at Bowers and Ruddy's Garrett sale in New York City when it last sold. Back then, just as the lot was approaching, George Bennett, the auctioneer, stepped aside and Dave Bowers came up to the podium. He said that descendants of Ephraim Brasher were in attendance. He related that they told him that the correct pronunciation of the family name was similar to "Braizer," with a long "A" sound, not the typically used "Brash-er" pronunciation. It is unknown if that changed over time since the 1780's.

I recall Art Kagin standing on the side of the auction room at the St. Moritz hotel furiously animated trying to be the winner of the coin, with each bid setting a new record. He then capitulated to Partrick's agent, who by chance sat just next to me, by throwing his bidder card on the ground in disgust. There was wild applause. It sold for \$725,000 back then. This time is brought \$9.36 million to an on-line audience. There was recognition from the podium but little else. The new owner is not a coin collector.



1787 Brasher Doubloon, ex: Garrett/Partrick.



Kenny Snow viewing the Simpson collection.



Rick Snow viewing Simpson collection.

The early cent patterns feature the 1850-1853 ring cents. These are typically dark and toned, but many of the Simpson coins were outstanding in their brightness and high quality. Prices seem to be moderate as these lack interesting designs and quality pieces come up with such infrequency that there is little to go on for pricing.

2/23/21:3129 1850 Judd-119 Snow-PT1a.
 Ring Cent, CENT 1850 / ONE TENTH SILVER.
 Perforated. Billon. Low R6,
 PR65 PCGS.\$4,080



2/23/21:3130 1850 Judd-124 Snow-PT2c.
 Ring Cent, CENT 1850 / ONE TENTH SILVER.
 Unperforated. Copper-Nickel. Low R7,
 PR65 PCGS.\$3,840

11/22/20:3103 1850 Judd-124, Snow-PT2c.
 Ring Cent - CENT 1850 / ONE TENTH SILVER.
 Unperforated. Copper-Nickel. Low R7
 PR64+ PCGS. CAC.....\$4,320
 Two examples were in the collection. Interesting how the
 higher graded example sold for less.

9/17/20: 10173 1850 Judd-124c, Snow-PT4a.
 Ring Cent - CENT 1850 / Laurel Wreath.
 Unperforated. Nickel alloy. High R7,
 PR66 PCGS.\$5,520



1/20/21: 3066 1850 Judd-124c, Snow-PT4a.
 Ring cent - CENT 1850 / Laurel Wreath.
 Unperforated. Nickel alloy. High R7,
 PR66+ PCGS. CAC.....\$7,200
 Two were in the Simpson collection. Listed as R8 in the sale
 catalog, from Judd. About 5 known, so it is actually a High R7.



1/20/21: 3067 1850 Judd-124g, Snow-PT6.
 CENT 1850 / Blank. Unperforated. Nickel alloy. Low R7.
 PR65+ PCGS.\$7,500

9/17/20: 10174 1851 Judd-127 Snow-PT1a.
 Ring Cent - Laurel Wreath / ONE TENTH SILVER.
 Perforated. Low R6,
 PR65 PCGS.\$4,560

1/20/21: 3068 1851 Judd-127, Snow-PT1.
 Ring cent - Laurel / CENT, ONE TENTH SILVER.
 Perforated. Billon. Low R6
 PR65+ PCGS. CAC.\$5,520

11/22/20:3104 1851 Judd-129, Snow-PT1b.
 Ring Cent - Laurel / CENT, ONE TENTH SILVER,
 Perforated. Copper. Low R7,
 PR66BN PCGS.\$6,030
 Tied for finest known with the Harry Bass example.

1/20/21: 3069 1851 Judd-130, Snow-PT2c.
 Ring Cent - CENT, ONE TENTH SILVER.
 Unperforated. Copper. R7,
 PR65+RB PCGS.....\$5,280

2/23/21:3132 (1851) Judd-130, Snow-PT2c.
 Ring cent, Laurel / CENT, ONE TENTH SILVER.
 Unperforated. R7,
 PR66RB PCGS. CAC.....\$7,200



- 9/17/20: 10175 1851 Judd-131A, Snow-PT2e.
Ring Cent - Laurel / CENT, ONE TENTH SILVER.
Unperforated. Nickel. High R7,
PR67 PCGS.\$8,400
Five examples known. Two were in the Simpson collection.
- 1/20/21: 3070 1851 Judd-131A, Snow-PT2e.
Ring Cent / CENT, ONE TENTH SILVER.
Unperforated. Nickel, Reeded Edge. High R7
PR66+ PCGS.\$6,300
- 11/22/20: 3105 1853 Judd-150, Snow-PT1.
Liberty Head / ONE CENT, Laurel wreath.
German Silver, Thin Planchet. Low R7
PR66 PCGS.\$6,000
- 2/23/21: 3136 1853 Judd-150, Snow-PT1.
Liberty Head / ONE CENT, Laurel wreath.
German Silver, Thin Planchet. Low R7,
PR63 PCGS.\$8,100
- 2/23/21: 3137 (1853) Judd-151d, Snow-PT2a.
Blank / ONE CENT Laurel Wreath, Billon. R7,
PR65 PCGS.\$8,400
- 11/22/20: 3106 (1853) Judd-151c, Snow-PT2b.
Blank / ONE CENT Laurel Wreath, Copper-nickel. R7,
PR66+ PCGS. CAC.\$7,200
The finest known example.

The Seated Liberty Cents were featured with two german silver examples and two electrotypes.



- 9/17/20: 10178 1854 Judd-157, Snow-PT1a #2.
Seated Liberty / Wreath. German silver. High R7,
PR67 Cameo PCGS. CAC.\$14,400
- 11/22/20: 3107 1854 Judd-157, Snow-PT1a #2.
Seated Liberty / Wreath. German Silver. High R7,
PR63 PCGS.\$2,640
- 11/22/20: 3108 1854 Judd-159a, Snow-PT1e.
Seated Liberty / Wreath. Electrotpe. High R6,
MS62BN PCGS.\$2,340

- 2/23/21: 3138 1854 Judd-159a, Snow-PT1e.
Seated Liberty / Wreath. Electrotpe. High R6,
MS64BN PCGS. CAC.\$5,280

Only one Coronet Liberty cent was in the collection, but it was a beauty!



- 1/20/21: 3073 1854 Judd-161, Snow-PT1a.
Coronet Liberty / Wreath with two leaves under E. R4
PR66BN PCGS.\$6,600
The Large Flying Eagles were well represented. With the highlight being the Three-leaf reverse, which is very rare.
- 9/17/20: 10179 1854 Judd-164. Snow-PT3.
Large Flying Eagle / Two Leaves under E. R5,
PR66BN PCGS. CAC.\$9,900



- 2/23/21: 3139 1854 Judd-165b, Snow-PT4.
Large Flying Eagle / Three Leaves under E. High R7,
PR65 Brown PCGS. CAC.\$31,200
Listed in the catalog as R8, but five examples are known.
The plate coin in the Attribution Guide (2014). *Ex: Stack's 1/07:5460; HA 1/10:3720 (\$18,400).*
- 11/22/20: 3109 1855 Judd-167, Snow-PT1a.
Large Flying Eagle / Four Leaves Under E, Copper. R5
PR63+BN PCGS.\$3,540
- 2/23/21: 3140 1855 Judd-168 Snow-PT1a.
Large Flying Eagle / Four Leaves under E. Bronze. R4,
PR64RB PCGS. CAC.\$4,320.
- 9/17/20: 10180 1855 Judd-170a, Snow-PT1b #3.
Large Flying Eagle / Four leaves. German Silver. R7,
PR64+ PCGS.\$6,900

There were two 1856 Flying Eagle patterns.

2/23/21:3141 1856 Judd-183, Snow-4d.
Regular dies, Nickel alloy. High R7,
PR64 PCGS. CAC. \$25,200

1/20/21: 3074 1856 Judd-184, Snow-PT1.
Flying Eagle Cent / Ornamental Wreath. Low R7
PR62 PCGS. \$10,200

The 1857 Coronet cent is a very rare pattern. It is likely a fantasy mule using a \$2-1/2 obverse and an existing cent pattern reverse.



2/23/21:3142 1857 Judd-186, Snow-PT2.
Coronet Liberty / Laurel Wreath. High R7,
PR66 PCGS. \$18,132
Dies rotated 170 degrees. Tied for finest known with two other
PR66 - one PCGS and the other NGC.

The 1858 patterns were represented by some very rare examples. The first one is the true transitional Small Letter / Laurel Wreath. This is known by only three examples and this example is the finest. The catalog didn't highlight the fact that the reverse has six leaves, instead of the common five leaf variety. The six leaf reverse is the same design used in 1859. Obviously from the price realized, it did not go unnoticed.



2/23/21:3143 1858 Judd-191b, Snow-PT15.
Small Letter, Six Leaves. High R7.
PR65 PCGS. CAC. \$26,400
Only three known. This is the finest. The catalog listed it as a
R5, as the five leaf ones are, but it is actually a High R7.

11/22/20:3111 1858 Judd-193, Snow-PT11.
Flying Eagle, Small Letters / Ornamental Shield. R5,
PR63 PCGS. \$2,640



1/20/21: 3076 1858 Judd-198, Snow-PT3,
Large Letters / Ornamental Wreath. Low R6,
PR66 PCGS. CAC. \$9,600

2/23/21:3144 1858 Judd-203, Snow-PT18.
Small Eagle / Oak Wreath. R5,
PR65 PCGS. CAC. \$5,040

11/22/20:3112 1858 Judd-205, Snow-PT17b.
Small Eagle / Ornamental Shield. Copper. R8,
PR65BN PCGS. CAC. \$15,600



2/23/21:3145 1858 Judd-206, Snow-PT16.
Small Eagle / Agricultural Wreath. R5,
PR67 Cameo PCGS. CAC. \$28,800
The finest known example and the sale price show that.

1/20/21: 3077 1858 Judd-210, Snow-PT28c.
Indian Head / 5 leaf Laurel Wreath. Bronze. R8,
PR64RB PCGS. CAC. \$10,800
This example sold for \$13,800 in 2009. It is a rare pattern and
the buyer got a bargain.

2/23/21:3146 1858 Judd-211, Snow-PT26.
Indian / Oak Wreath. R4,
PR65 PCGS. \$3,960

11/22/20:3113 1858 Judd-213, Snow-PT22.
Indian Head / Agricultural Wreath. R5,
PR63 PCGS. \$2,040



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9/17/20: 10182 1858 Judd-220, Snow-PT21.

Flying Eagle/Indian Cent. Unique.

PR64 PCGS. \$36,000

This is a real rare coin. It sold for \$37,950 back in 2006 as a PR62 PCGS. It probably should have gone for closer to \$50K.

2/23/21:3148 1859 Judd-226, Pollock-270, Snow-PT2.

Indian / Oak Wreath. High R6,

PR64 PCGS. CAC. \$3,840

11/22/20:3115 1859 Judd-228, Shield Reverse. R1,

MS64+ PCGS. CAC. \$1,800



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9/17/20: 10183 1859 Judd-229a, Snow-PT5,

Double-Headed Indian Cent. Unique,

MS63 PCGS. \$90,000

This sold for a whopping \$195,500 back in 2008 when it was graded MS62. Mr. Simpson just had to have it back then at all costs.

1/20/21: 3079 1859 Judd-230, Snow-PT1a.

Regular dies. Copper. High R7,

PR65+BN PCGS. CAC. \$5,280

11/22/20:3124 1862 Judd-290, Snow-PT1a.

Regular dies. Copper. High R7,

MS64BN PCGS. CAC. \$6,300

2/23/21:3161 1863 Judd-299, Snow PT1.

Regular Dies. Bronze. R3,

PR65RB PCGS. \$3,360

9/17/20: 10191 1863 Judd-300, Snow-2a.

Regular dies, Reeded Edge. R7,

PR64 PCGS. CAC. \$4,080

2/23/21:3162 1863 Judd-301, Snow-PT3b.

With L, Bronze. High R7,

PR65RB PCGS. \$20,400

The very rare 1863 With L. This seems cheap. A PR66RD sold for \$70,500 in 2013.

2/23/21:3169 1864 Judd-355, Snow-PT1a,

Regular Dies, No L. Copper-Aluminum. High R7,

PR65+ PCGS. CAC. \$8,400

1/20/21: 3105 1864 Judd-354, Snow-PT1a-1.

Regular dies, No L. Copper-Aluminum. R8,

MS67 PCGS. CAC. \$14,400

9/17/20: 10202 1864 Judd-356a, Snow-PT1e.

Regular dies, No L. Copper. Low R6,

PR64RB. \$1,920

1/20/21: 3106 1864 Judd-356a, Snow-PT1e.

Regular dies, No L. Copper. Low R6,

MS66 Red PCGS. CAC. \$6,600

2/23/21:3170 1864 1C Judd-356b, Snow-PT1c.

No L, Regular Dies. Copper-nickel, Thin Planchet. R8,

PR66+ PCGS. CAC. \$6,600



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

11/22/20:3132 1864 Judd-361, Snow-PT3d.

With L, Aluminum. R8,

PR61 PCGS. \$19,200.00

A very rare and desirable pattern which unfortunately has some hairlines on the obverse.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

1/20/21: 3107 1864 Judd-362, Snow-PT2.

No L Indian Cent / 1858 S.L. Flying Eagle Cent Mule. R8,
PR62 PCGS. \$84,000

There are two examples known. The other example is a PR65
Cameo and sold for \$74,750 in 2009.

1/20/21: 3116 1865 Judd-406, Pollock-475, Snow-PT1c.

Regular dies, Plain 5. Nickel alloy. Low R6,
PR65+ Deep Cameo PCGS. CAC. \$14,400

2/23/21: 3175 1865 Judd-406a, Snow-PT1c.

Regular dies, Plain 5. Nickel alloy. High R7,
PR66+ Cameo PCGS. CAC. \$7,500

11/22/20: 3137 1865 Judd-406a, Snow-PT1c,

Regular dies, Plain 5. Nickel alloy. High R7,
PR64 PCGS. CAC. \$4,320

9/17/20: 10211 1866 Judd-455.

Regular dies, Copper. R8,
PR65+BN PCGS. CAC. \$9,600

2/23/21: 3184 1866 Judd-456, Snow-PT1.

Regular dies. Copper-nickel. R7,
MS66 PCGS. CAC. \$5,520

1/20/21: 3128 1866 Judd-457, Snow-PT1.

Regular dies. Nickel. High R7,
MS66 PCGS. CAC. \$9,000

1/20/21: 3145 1868 Judd-608, Snow-PT3a.

Longacre's Coronet Liberty / Laurel. Nickel. R4,
PR65 Cameo PCGS. CAC. \$2,100

9/17/20: 10225 1868 Judd-609, Snow-PT3b.

Longacre's Coronet Liberty / Laurel. Copper. High R7,
PR63 BN PCGS. \$3,720



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2/23/21: 3198 1868 Judd-612, Snow-PT1.

Regular Dies. Aluminum. Low R7,
PR65+ Cameo PCGS. \$13,335

Aluminum cents are super cool. This is probably the most
available date with eight examples known.

2/23/21: 3209 1869 Judd-669, Snow-PT1.

Regular Dies. Copper-nickel. R7,
MS64 PCGS. CAC. \$8,400



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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1/20/21: 3154 1869 Judd-671, Snow-PT1c.

Regular dies. Aluminum. High R7,
PR65 Deep Cameo PCGS. CAC. \$25,200



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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11/22/20: 3226 1873 Judd-1257, Snow-PT1b.

Regular dies, Closed 3. Copper-nickel. R8 (Likely Unique),
MS65 PCGS. CAC. \$24,000

Off-metal error. This has a long pedigree.

*Ex: William F. Gable; S.H. Chapman, 5/1914:1562; Fred E. Olsen; Mehl,
11/44:553; King Farouk; Palace Collections of Egypt; Sotheby's, 2/54:1924;
Bolender 10/55:1075; ANR 3/06:1364; Stack's 7/08:4217.*



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com



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9/17/20: 10302 1874 Judd-1347, Snow-PT1a.

Regular dies, Aluminum. High R7,
PR64+ Cameo PCGS. CAC. \$15,000

1/20/21: 3257 1881 Judd-1666, Snow-PT1b.

Barber's Coronet Liberty / Cotton and Corn. High R6,
PR65 Brown PCGS. \$3,480

1/20/21: 3270 1884 Judd-1721, Snow-PT1a.

Ring Cent. Nickel. R5,
PR68 PCGS. \$5,280

2/23/21:3310 1884 1C Judd-1722, Snow-PT1b.
 Ring Cent. Aluminum. Low R7,
 PR65 PCGS.\$7,200



9/17/20: 10343 1885 Judd-1739, Snow-PT1.
 Regular dies, Aluminum. R8,
 PR65 PCGS.\$21,600
 This is a super rarity. I think it could have gone for twice as much.



1/20/21: 3272 1885 Judd-1740, Snow-PT1a.
 Ring cent. Silver. High R6,
 PR65 PCGS.\$5,760



2/23/21:3311 1896 Judd-1767a, Snow-PT1a.
 Shield Cent. Nickel. Low R7,
 PR66 PCGS. CAC.\$13,200

9/17/20: 10346 1896 Judd-1768, Snow-PT1c.
 Shield Cent. Bronze. R5
 PR65RB PCGS. CAC.\$6,600

1/20/21: 3275 1896 Judd-1768a, Snow-PT1c.
 Shield Cent. Brass. R8,
 PR65 PCGS. CAC.\$6,600



11/22/20:3277 1896 Judd-1769, Snow-PT1d.
 Shield Cent. Aluminum. High R6,
 PR67 Cameo PCGS. CAC.\$13,200

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Digit Punches

By Richard Snow



Digit Punches

One of the most important things that a collector of die varieties should know is that for cents dated prior to 1909, the date was added to the die at a different time than the rest of the design. Because of this we have repunched dates. Because of this we have differing date positions. Because of this any doubled die will not be seen on the date.

With the exception of 1909, all Indian cent obverse dies were made in a two-step process: First, the die was sunk in a process called hubbing. A hub is a steel die with a positive (raised) design which looks exactly like the coin but without the date. It includes the denticles, main design and the legend.

The process of transferring anything from steel to steel involves impressing hardened steel into softened steel. To soften the die, it is put into a steel box packed with carbon to keep out the air and is heated to a bright red and then allowed to cool gradually. It is a long process which may take many hours.

The hubbing of the die is done on a screw press. The initial hubbing will not transfer the design into the die entirely as the die becomes work-hardened. It will have to be packed up again and put in the furnace. This will be done with many dies at a time.

After the die is fully impressed, the date is added by impressing a digit punch into the die. This is also done on the screw press. The punches could be made in either single numerals or full date punches. Single punches could have been held together in a gang and punched into the die all at once. Digit punches can be used over the course of many years.

Digit punches are made by engraving or stamping the digits into a slab of soft steel called a matrix. After hardening, the matrix could be used to raise digit punches. Sometimes we see apparent repunching that exists on numerous dies in the same way. These are digit punch errors. The repunching is actually on the matrix and was transferred to the digit punch.

Hardening of the punches are done in the same process as the dies. To harden the steel it was again put in a carbon-filled steel box and heated to a bright red. The steel was then quickly quenched in water. The steel would then be too brittle, so the punches would have to be reheated to temper them. Dies were heated to a blue color while punches were heated to a straw color¹.

Occasionally we see score marks on the die that were used to position the date. If not polished off the die face they show up as raised lines on the finished coins. These are date position lines.

¹ "Manufacture of Dies" By Charles E. Barber. 1896 Mint Report.



Hub and Die

From 1856 until 1871, the dates were punched into the die in a curve that mirrored the denticles below. Beginning in 1872 and continuing into 1873, the date punch was very small and straight. In 1873 a problem arose when it was noticed that the 3 digit look very much like an 8. To solve this problem, the lower ball of the "3" digit punch was ground down to open up distance between the top and bottom balls.

Perhaps due to this problem, in 1874 the date was made larger. From 1874 though 1880 the date punches used on the Indian cent series were straight at the top. If the second two digits were slightly larger, the difference is noticeable at their base. In 1879, the 1 digit shows a small nub at the base. This is a defect



*1865 Fancy 5, 5/4 digit punch
Curved date 1856 - 1871*



Small straight date 1872 - 1873



**1879. Note nub under the 1.
Large straight date 1874 - 1880**

on the digit punch and is found on all dies dated from that punch. This is the only year that defect is found.

In 1881, the dates started to be punched in a curved arc again. The 1881 and 1882 dies seem to be transition years with the 18 straight and the 81 and 82 punched at an angle to form a curve.

It is quite possible that if the die maker had extra time, they could make dies for later production years than currently needed. These would be put in storage without the date stamped in or with partial dates with just the 18 initially punched into the die. This may have been why the 1881 and 1882 dies show a transitional curve. There is an obvious breakage on the digit punch for the 2 in 1882. The narrow top on the 2 is broken.

We can determine how many digits were punched into a die at one time by using a few different methods. One would be digital overlays. If there is no difference in the gaps between any of the digits on different dies, then it is likely that a full date punch was used. We can also look at repunched dates. If at least the first and last digits are repunched, then the entire date was likely punched into the die at one time. If only the last digit or the last two digits show repunching, then it may have been a die that the first two or first three digits were put on the die at an earlier time.

Digit punches can break and when broken punches are used, there will be a gap or missing detail from the lack of metal on the punch. In 1880 there is a progression of digit punch breakage which can be seen on many different dies. In the *Attribution Guide* (Snow 2014), these are listed as Snow-3 when the second 8 is broken, Snow-4 when both 8's are broken and Snow-9 when the 880 is broken. Additional dies found with these broken digit punches are listed as, for example, S3a, S3b, S3c, etc.



**1882 Snow-2 Broken top 2.
Curved date 1881 - 1908**



1880 Snow-3 - Broken Second 8



1880 Snow-4 - Broken 88



1880 Snow-9 - Broken 880

What can explain the breakage of the digit punches? One could argue that the punch deteriorated with each successive die it got impressed into. That seems to be the obvious answer. But why did it happen? The shape of the date and the relative positions of the digits does not change and this points to a 4-digit punch.

Perhaps there was a flaw in the steel that the digit punch was made out of. A lamination flaw that progressively got worse. Perhaps the punch was not tempered properly and was too brittle.

It is important to recognize the processes that go into making a coin. Digit punches were an important step in creating a die prior to the advancement of die making technology in the early 20th Century. Because the dates are not part of the hub, they move around ever so slightly in relation to the portrait above and the denticles below. This movement of the date position gives us a tool for identifying individual dies.

*What happened to one of the finest Snow-5 1856 Flying Eagles?
Greg Slaughter*



*Photo 1: 1856 Snow-5 PR66 PCGS.
from: https://images.pcg.com/CoinFacts/14594418_98283797_2200.jpg*



*Photo 2: 1856 Snow-5 PR66 PCGS
from: https://images.pcg.com/CoinFacts/36376092_153180147_2200.jpg*

The Snow-5 1856 Flying Eagle is quite rare. In 2014 when the 3rd edition of *The Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Attribution Guide* by Richard Snow was published, it listed the 14 known examples (see pg 42 of Volume 1). Furthermore, of those 14 known Snow-5 (S5), the finest one attributed as a proof was graded PR66, and there was only one such coin. The book also mentioned a single S5 graded MS66, but it currently still has an MS attribution¹. We can also rule out the possibility of any upgrades of other coins since 2014 that could have resulted in there being more than one S5 graded PR66 or greater as there are currently only 10 coins across all die pairs graded at least PR66 or MS66: Five S3 (PR66, PR66+, PR67+, MS66, MS66), Two S5 (PR66, MS66), and Three S9 (PR66, PR66, PR67).

The first image is the coin featured on pg 41 of the *Attribution Guide*, the one and only PR66 Snow-5 1856 Flying Eagle. It is also the same photo that is still shown (at the time of writing this article) in position 1 of the condition census at the PCGS CoinFacts page for S5 1856s. The corresponding cert for that coin (14594418) is no longer valid.

The second coin pictured (Photo 2) does not indicate attribution as a Snow-5, but it is clearly a Snow-5 as identified by the Pointed U on the obverse and the center dot on the reverse. At the time of this writing, it appears in position 3 of the condition census at the bottom of the PCGS page for all 1856 proof strikes without specific attributions. Also, at the time of this writing, CAC has certified the second example².

Could Photo 1 and Photo 2 be the same PR66 Snow-5 1856 Flying Eagle? Since there should only be one PR66 Snow-5, Photo 1 and Photo 2 should be the same coin, though at first glance they appear to be quite different coins. On closer inspection though, it's clear that they both have an uncanny set of features in common:

- Both show a fingerprint on the obverse, between the eagle and the date, and that fingerprint looks as far as I can tell to be identical. Although the fingerprint appears to be identical, compared to the fingerprint in Photo 1, the fingerprint in Photo 2 is much less obvious, blending in well with the purple toning.
- For every distinctive speck or mark (especially the many on the reverse) shown on one photo, you can always find that exact same speck or mark in the exact same location on the other photo. I could not find a single exception.

It simply seems to be too much of a coincidence that the coins shown in these two photos share so many unique identifying features. It seems they simply must be the same coin. Furthermore, it makes sense that they should be the same coin, since there should only be one PR66 Snow-5!

But they appear to have different toning. Could this difference in toning simply be accounted for by a difference in lighting of the photos? I don't think that is likely, since both photos were done by PCGS, presumably with the same imaging apparatus, using the same lighting technique. Furthermore, if you compare the photos, you'll find the toning is present in one part of the coin, but not on the other photo at that exact same part of the coin.

¹ <https://www.pcgsc.com/cert/33274507>

² <https://www.caccoin.com/lookup cert#:36376092>

For example, Photo 1 shows the reddish toning at the top of the reverse, but the top of the reverse of Photo 2 shows a golden and untuned portion of the coin. For each photo, you will find locations where there is toning on one photo, but at the corresponding location on the other photo, the coin is untuned and golden. The new toning seems to be an improvement. It is especially notable that in Photo 1 the fingerprint is on a portion of the coin that is mostly golden and untuned, making the fingerprint quite obvious. But, in Photo 2, that same portion of the coin is toned, making the fingerprint much less obvious.

What is the explanation for the new toning? It appears that the toning on this coin has changed, and the new toning now fortunately makes the fingerprint less obvious. Furthermore, it's interesting that the toning has changed in a way where the reverse has become largely untuned, while the obverse has become more toned. I wonder what caused the toning to change in such an unusual way. I'm having trouble conceiving of a natural way to explain such apparent toning changes.

Let's look at the pedigree of this coin. In the 2014 *Attribution Guide* it was attributed to the Tom Fore collection. Dr. Fore's collection was sold in Heritage's January 2016 sale, lot 5241³. That sale gave a few prior sales: "Portland ANA (Heritage, 3/2004), lot 5056, realized \$48,300; Tom Fore; Leningrad Dutch Collection, the finest Proof Flying Eagle Cent Complete Variety PCGS Registry Set." The auction photos showed a tone consistent with Photo 1.

Just a few years after the 2016 auction in Sept 2019, it again sold at auction, this time at a Legend auction⁴, this time with a tone consistent with Photo 2 and a new cert number (36376092). This time, there is a long auction description noting how perfect the coin is, but there is no mention of this perfect coin's impressive pedigree. The following is noted though: "Using a strong glass, we are totally unable to locate a single mark, tick, line, or fleck anywhere, of any kind, that is worthy of mention."

It appears the new toning has indeed improved the coin, as even with a "strong glass" the fingerprint was apparently not noticed. At a much earlier Heritage auction in March 2004⁵ the fingerprint was noted: "Traces of a fingerprint fragment above the date prevent an even higher grade." The fingerprint seems to be the most interesting part of this mystery.

Coins graded PR66 are expected to have only minor imperfections. I don't consider the fingerprint to be minor, since, at least with the original tone (Photo 1), my eye goes right to the fingerprint, which detracts from the overall appearance of the coin. With the current tone (Photo 2), the fingerprint is much less noticeable, but I still notice it and I can't help focusing on it. Perhaps I notice the fingerprint with the coin's current tone because I've already seen the fingerprint when the coin had its original tone. It's entirely possible if I had only seen the coin with its current tone, I might have missed the fingerprint, even if I had viewed it with a "strong glass."

³ <https://coins.ha.com/itm/a/1231-5241.s>

⁴ <https://legendauctions.hibid.com/lot/55602433/1c-1856-flying-eagle--pcgs-pr66-cac/>

⁵ <https://coins.ha.com/itm/proof-flying-eagle-cents/1856-1c-pr66-pcgs-snow-5-although-snow-5-shares-the/a/344-5056.s>

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How COVID has affected Coin Collecting

By Charmy Harker (The Penny Lady)

COVID has impacted all of us in many different ways – from our businesses to our personal and family lives and even our hobbies. For me, as most of you know, I am not only “The Penny Lady” in my business but I also have personal penny collections so my business sometimes overlaps with my coin hobby. And like many of you, I have paid more attention to my personal hobbies this past year than I have in quite a while. In addition to getting back into some other hobbies I haven’t done in many years (like jigsaw puzzles), I took this extra stay-at-home time to organize and better catalog my penny collections, including reviewing what coins I still need and which coins may need replacing.

In case you’re wondering how a dealer can also be a collector, let me explain how I make that work. Back when I became a fulltime dealer, in order for me to maintain my personal collections but not interfere with my business of selling pennies, I set up some specific criteria for my personal collections. When choosing a coin for one of my collections, the coin had to have at least one of three criteria: (1) beautiful toning and eye appeal; (2) a bold and interesting variety; and/or (3) a very cool “wow” error. And if I found a coin I really liked and wanted to keep it for my personal collection but I happened to already have that date (other than special varieties and errors), I made a “pact” with myself that the old coin would be need to be removed from my personal collection and added to my business inventory for sale. I have kept that pact and it has worked well for me.

My personal Indian cent collection is complete by date and includes several neat errors and varieties, but I’m always willing to change a coin out if I find one I like better – which is pretty hard to do since I LOVE each and every coin in my collection. However, my Lincoln cent collection has a lot of holes in it since I only fill in a date if I find the right coin. I don’t buy coins just to complete my set, and with the different mints and dates in the Lincoln set, I haven’t yet found “just the right coin” for every date and mint.

In the past, I would attend shows around the country and have no problem finding nice coins for my inventory. I also would come across coins throughout the year that I would add to or trade out in my personal collections. This past year, however, has made finding coins much more challenging, not just inventory for my business but new coins that might fit in my personal collections. With physical venues where collectors and dealers could gather to buy and sell coins having become almost non-existent, opportunities to find new coins have become much more limited. I now have to look to dealer websites and online auctions to find new material. And I am competing with many more online shoppers, just like me, looking for those special coins. As a result, I have seen that the cost of the same types of coins I bought before the pandemic has increased quite a bit, especially quality better date material.



In spite of these challenges, while searching the internet for coins, I was overjoyed when I came across this very pretty gold and orange toned 1909-S Lincoln cent. The subtle colors just caught my eye and It happened to be a semi-key date hole in my collection that I hadn't yet filled and I was very pleased to have found it.

There is one exception to my collecting criteria mentioned above - if I come across a penny (or even a 2 cent piece) in one of the very rare PCGS Doily holders for sale, I will try and add it to my collection. For those of you who may not be familiar with these old PCGS holders, they were only used for about a month at the end of 1989 and are often under-graded based on today's grading criteria. And for some reason it's even harder finding copper coins in these old Doily holders. So a couple months ago I was very happy to acquire this pretty 1864 Bronze cent in a Doily holder for my Indian cent collection!

One other neat piece I found this past year was an encased Indian cent for my penny exnumia collection. I also collect interesting things made out of or using a penny, including penny teapots and charms, elongated pennies, love tokens, penny pocket mirrors, advertising encased pennies, and much more. Another dealer friend who knows I collect higher end encased pennies, especially Indian cents, pointed me to this great piece on eBay and, even though it's a very tough piece to find this nice, I was able to buy it at a relatively reasonable price. The Indian cent is uncirculated and the encasement is in beautiful shape, so I was thrilled to add it to my exnumia collection.

I really miss getting together and attending coin shows. I miss talking coins with my dealer and collector friends, I miss the comradery, I miss the social aspects of wining and dining with various coin people, I miss buying and selling coins from my inventory, I miss checking out what's new in the auctions, I miss attending the Fly-In Club and other club meetings, but most of all I miss the hunt for and excitement of finding new coins and neat penny creations for my personal collections. I eagerly look forward to the time that shows will once again open up maybe later this year, and numismatics can once again be an in-person activity!



Specializing in Flying Eagle, Indian, Lincoln, and Early American Copper Cents

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By Michel Peloquin

My first step was to look through my 1994 edition of the Red Book and set my purchase limit at \$300 per year – the price, in those days, of an 1872 Indian Head cent in Extremely Fine (EF). Of course, this effort would have been regrettable if I also did not have a rudimentary knowledge of grading standards developed from a thorough reading on the *ANA Grading Standards for United States Coins*. Still, my resources were limited to the two books mentioned until I stumbled upon a coin shop in St. Louis, Missouri.

Year	Find in Fine or higher
1861	1874
1866	1875
1867	1876
1868	1878
1873 Open 3	1908-S
1873 Closed 3	

By this time, I had made my first purchase (the 1868 Indian Head cent that I still own to this day), and I felt comfortable moving into the key date issues identified in the Coin World article (1864-L, 1869, 1870, 1871, 1872, and 1909-S). Remarkably, although mentioned in the article, the 1877 Indian Head cent was left off the list of key date coins. Regardless, at this point-in-time, according to the Red Book, this was a coin too expensive to consider buying. I would have to cross that bridge later. But, for now, I was satisfied with my efforts collecting key date coins without considering the 1877 Indian Head cent. Plus, I had other things on my mind – like my army career and trips to Haiti and Panama (not for sight-seeing). And, soon, I was engaged to a wonderful woman who became my wife in July, 1995. One thing in particular about this special person was her abiding aversion to debt. Fortunately, I had graduated without any student loans, but I owned a house and a credit card with a balance due each month. So, we agreed that I could continue my coin collecting hobby, as long as I did not use my credit card and stayed within a new budget of \$400 per year, not just for Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents, but for my diverse interests in coins. This agreement was acceptable to me and, with slight increases to account for the rise in my income over time, it has been the foundation of my collecting habit ever since.

In 1997, during my graduate studies back in Missouri, I acquired another wonderful book, *A Buyer's and Enthusiast's Guide to Flying Eagle and Indian Cents* by Q. David Bowers. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book, occasionally in lieu of my studies. A few things about this book captured my interest. Along with a preface by Richard Snow, this book contained an interesting narrative grading system which included information from the ANA-Sheldon Grading System, Photograde Grading Guidelines, and Richard Snow's Guidelines, along with Commentary from Q. David Bowers himself. Also included in this book were historical (1938, 1944, & 1965) and current (1996) prices for all regular issue Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents. This information (the narrative grading system and the historical and current pricing guides) allowed me to be more comfortable with my endeavor to seek out choice Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents in the appropriate grades. Using the knowledge gained from my accumulation of books, I refined my approach to Flying Eagle and Indian Head cent collecting. I stuck with circulated (VF/XF) coins in the tougher years (1866-1878, excluding 1877), almost uncirculated (AU) coins in the less difficult years (1859-1865 and 1908-S & 1909-S), and uncirculated (MS60 thru MS63) coins in the common dates (1879-1909, excluding the San Francisco coins).

After a tour of duty in Afghanistan in 2008, I returned home with some extra money in my checking account. I was determined to finish my collection of Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents and made a deal with my wife to raise my annual spending limit to \$500 and to spend no more than \$1,500 on an 1877 Indian Head cent in Very Fine. I thought that I got lucky at a local coin show when I was offered a nice dark brown 1877 Indian Head cent in EF condition for \$1,600. It was a bit of a stretch, but it would fit in my set perfectly (i.e. my run of 1873 to 1876 Indian Head cents were all in EF condition. But, alas, it was too good to be true. A few weeks after the coin show, I showed my find to a reputable dealer in my home town of Tacoma, Washington and soon discovered that the coin I was so proud of had been

previously cleaned and retoned. I tried to return the coin to the dealer from the coin show, who did not have a shop, but whose name was on the invoice, but I received no reply. So, eventually, I sold it to my friend at the local coin shop, for \$1,200 and used the money to acquire an 1877 Indian Head cent in a PCGS holder in Very Fine for \$1,300. This was an expensive lesson learned, but a mistake I would never make again (hopefully). One additional best practice learned was to deal only with a trustworthy dealer with a good reputation. Or, at least, limit your expensive (greater than \$300) purchases to coins in third-party certified holders acquired via online auction or through a reputable dealer that handles mail order purchases.

In doing the math, one can see that the total investment I have made in my coin collection is approximately \$12,600 over twenty-nine years. However, the cost of my Flying Eagle and Indian Head cent collection only adds up to \$8,600 according to the simple spreadsheet maintained to keep track of my spending. So, on what did I spend the remaining funds – actually, on occasion, it has been quite refreshing to take a break from only collecting Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents. As a member of the Flying Eagle and Indian Cent Collector's Society (the Fly-In Club) for many years, I decided to diversify my collection by adding other coins designed by Chief Engraver of the Mint, James B. Longacre. Specifically, I have built nice short sets (i.e. no key dates) of two-cent pieces, three-cent copper-nickel pieces, three-cent silvers, and shield nickels. I even acquired a one-dollar gold piece. I've also continued my silver eagle collection and my accumulation of mint sets along with the occasional commemorative coin from the U.S. Mint. And, I recently finished my Lincoln cent collection which I started over three decades ago.

Something else I learned over the years building a nice matched set of Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents is that it is often necessary to pay more for nicer coins. The rule of thumb works like this – a dealer will have in his case a nice selection of choice coins for strong prices, and they will have more (not so nice) coins in a box behind the counter. Customers are welcome to peruse the coins behind the counter for common dates and cleaned coins, but if they want a coin from the display case, then they must expect to pay full price. It has been a lesson that I have been comfortable with since my goal had always been to assemble a set that satisfied me – which I could be proud to own for the rest of my life and with which I could enjoy viewing on a frequent basis. It has been a pleasant trip, and I hope you have enjoyed my story. Do not believe that a complete set of Flying Eagle and Indian Head Cents cannot be done on a budget.

P.S. My collection of regular issue Flying Eagle and Indian Head cents may have been completed in 2009, but I never forgot the lessons contained in Rick Snow's original book and his *Attribution Guide*, 3rd Edition, published in 2014. The world of varieties lay before me. I have begun to build a nice collection of varieties – still on a budget. But, that story will have to wait until another issue of Longacre's Ledger.

Something New
By Richard Snow

1872 Bold N



S3 1872, 1 in denticles.

S3 1872, 1 in denticles.

Obv. 5: (LE) The top of a 1 digit is visible sticking above the denticles below the 8 in the date.

Rev. T3-H: Olive leaf and shield points well away from denticles.

Attributed to: Norman Thomas

The extra digit is very bold and should be easy to identify. This was discovered late (2021) and as such, may be very scarce.

The variety listed as S3 in earlier editions was discovered to be the same dies as S2. {20}

1879

S8 1879, 8/8 (n), Digit in denticles.

Obv. 12: (RE) Repunching inside both loops of the 8. The top of a digit, likely a 9, is in the denticles below the 7.

Rev. L: Shield points and olive leaf firmly connected to the denticles.

Attributed to: Ed Nathanson

The digit in the denticles is fairly prominent. {55}



S8 1879, 8/8 (n), Digit in denticles.

1886 Type 2



S14 1886 T2, "S" Mark on Reverse.

S14 1886 T2, "S" Mark on Reverse.

Obv. 18: (C) An S-shaped die gouge on the reverse at 9:00. This is just where the mint mark would be placed beginning in 1908.

Early die state: Die roughness above the denticles just under the date.

Mid die state: Three rim cracks from 12:00 to 11:00.

Late die state: Rim breaks at 5:00. Rough areas around the neck, chin and mouth of Lady Liberty. Field near the denticles is very rough, especially on the lower half.

Rev. AG: An S-shaped gouge is visible below the wreath. Shield points connected to the denticles. Olive leaf away from the denticles.

Early die state: No die cracks. Rough field areas, mostly on the lower half.

Late die state: Die crack forms from the denticles at 7:00 to the junction between the lower olive leaf and the middle olive leaf.

Attributed to: Doug Hill

A group of 12 pieces was collected and attributed by Doug Hill as Hill-7 in the late 1990's. Due to poor die preparation, nearly all examples will show the lower hair curl and ribbon connected. The best struck pieces in high AU grade and above might show a hint of separation.



S14 1886 T2, "S" Mark on Reverse.

The S-mark is an interesting feature and is the reason for listing this as a variety.

{64BN58, 58, 50, 45, 40}

1891

S27 1891, 9/9 (s).

Obv. 30: (RE) Repunching in the lower loop of the 9. Looks like the top of a digit.

Rev. AE: Shield points firmly connected to the denticles. Olive leaf just away from the denticles.

Attributed to: David Killough

Fairly easy to spot the repunching. {50}



S27 1891, 9/9 (s).

1898

S49 1898, Digits in denticles.

Obv. 52: (C) Three digits visible in the denticles below the left edge of the first 8, between the first 8 and 9. Another digit in the denticles below the right edge of the last 8.

Rev. BB: Left shield point just away from the denticles. Right shield point and olive leaf just connected to the denticles.

Attributed to: David Killough

Minor misplaced digits variety. {35}



S49 1898, Digits in denticles.

1900

S37 1900, 1/1 (w).

Obv. 41: (RE) Repunching visible only at the base of the 1. It is to the left of the base.

Rev. AO: Olive leaf just away from the denticles. Shield points well away from the denticles.

Attributed to: Norman Thomas

Similar to S22 and S35. Compare date positions.
Likely a scarce variety. {64RB}



S37 1900, 1/1 (w).

1902

S21 1902, 19/19 (s).

Obv. 24: (C) Bold repunching visible at the base of the 1 and 9.

Rev. T: Olive leaf well away from the denticles. Shield points connected.

Attributed to: Norman Thomas

Similar to S2. Compare date position. {64RB}



S21 1902, 19/19 (s).

1903



S31 1903, 0 in Denticles.

Obv. 33: (C) The top of a 0 digit in the denticles below the 0 in the date.

Rev. AG: Right shield point connected to the denticles. Left shield point and olive leaf away from the denticles.

Attributed to: Norman Thomas

Fairly minor misplaced digit. {55}

S31 1903, 0 in Denticles.

1904



S24 1904, 0 in Denticles.

Obv. 25: (LH) The top of a 0 digit is visible in the denticles below the left edge of the 0.

Rev. Y: Right shield point connected to the denticles. Left shield point and olive leaf just away. Slight clash below the C in CENT.

Attributed to: David Killough

Fairly minor misplaced digit variety. {55}

S24 1904, 0 in Denticles.

Names in this issue

N T I S G R E B D L O G M E D
T O O W K R I T E A N D A O R
T I B C L C E C C R T O I P F
N B Y L P J A B Y V V L P R A
D X O H E O E T H S L J E X L
F Z P V J U R Z S I I C L S R
N R T O D R C V P L S V O J R
U O E O D S A U A V R N Q U E
G S S E K O G J X Z T P U L T
I V A P D T N H A R W X I P H
T Q Y M M B O W E R S E N Y G
G T T Y O I L J W Y B B E S U
H W B Y B H S O U O K J T X A
H A R K E R T D J D N U R D L
T H G I R W T R A C D S M J S

BOWERS	CARTWRIGHT	FREED
GOLDBERG	HARKER	JUDD
LONGACRE	NOBLE	OURSO
PELOQUIN	PILLIOD	SEBBY
SIMPSON	SLAUGHTER	SNOW
STACKS	THOMAS	

This puzzle is a word search puzzle that has a hidden message in it.
First find all the words in the list.
Words can go in any direction and share letters as well as cross over each other.
Once you find all the words. Copy the unused letters starting in the top left corner into the blanks to reveal the hidden message.

Decode the message.

Each letter in the phrase has been replaced with a number.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
8																									

A
10 19 8 9 10 18 3 17 2 19 11 25 24 19 2 21 20 11 2 19
25 24 2 25 7 25 19 19 1 12 18 15 8 19 2 8
A A

Hint: President’s message

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
6																									

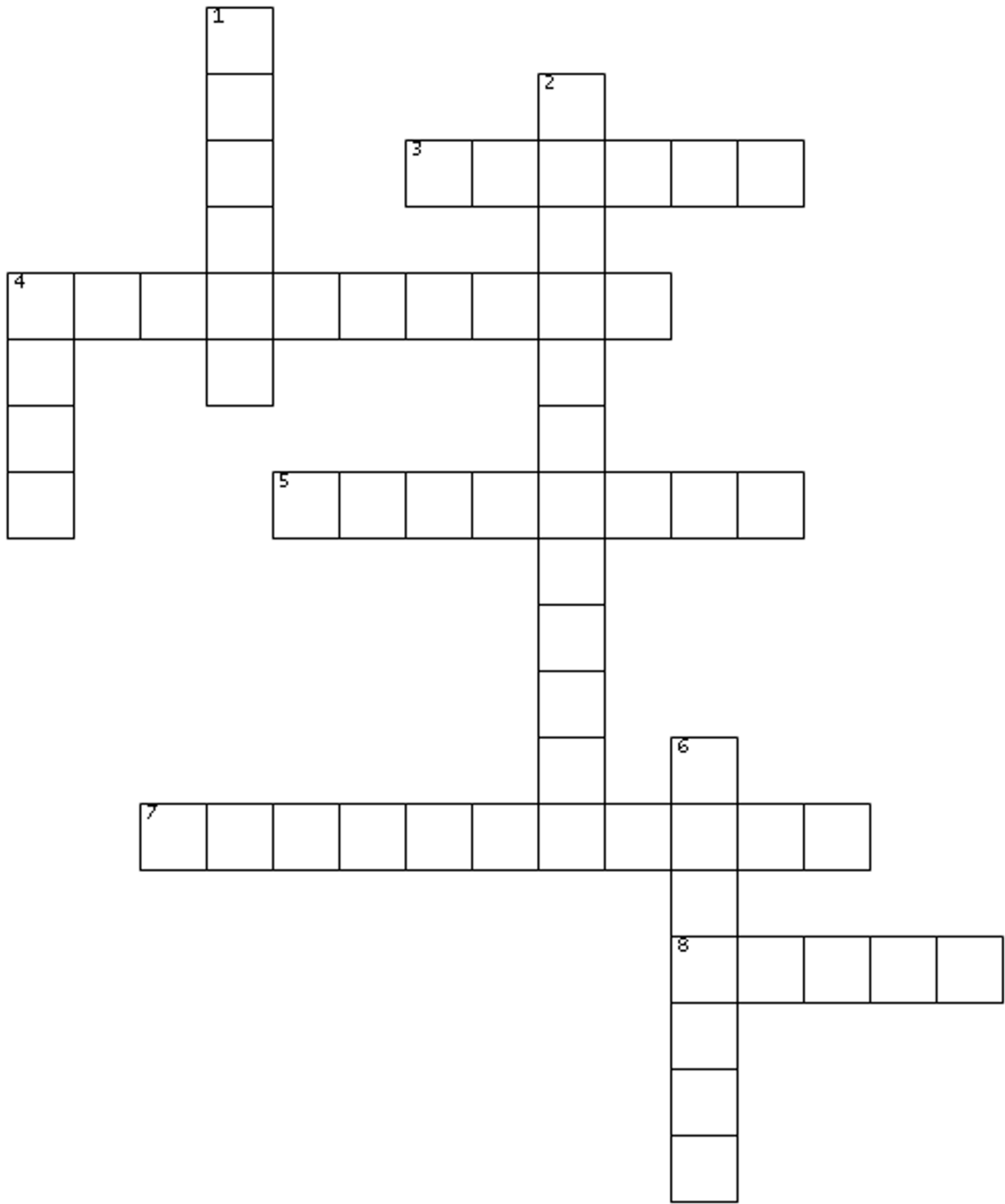
A A A
6 24 16 14 9 7 19 26 6 24 3 18 17 3 18 13 9 15 6 20 19
A A A
1 6 9 16 26 18 11 19 6 10 10 19 24 10 9 18 24 10 18 26 3
A A A
1 19 11 5 18 24 6 14 15 18 21 21 9 19 5 10 15 9 5 1 6 5 10
A A A A
3 19 6 11 10 15 6 24 9 15 6 20 19 9 24 22 13 9 10 19 6
2 15 9 14 19

Hint: Charmy’s article

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
11														18											

O
2 6 14 15 5 26 14 21 18 14 26 20 15 16 20 23 15 26 14 26 16 15 20 23 13
A O A A
15 5 11 15 15 5 26 15 18 23 20 23 13 5 11 16 8 5 11 23 13 26 12 20 23
A A A
11 25 11 22 25 5 26 14 26 15 5 26 14 26 4 26 14 16 26 5 11 16
O A O
10 26 8 18 21 26 17 11 14 13 26 17 22 6 23 15 18 23 26 12 25 5 20 17 26
O A O O
15 5 26 18 10 4 26 14 16 26 5 11 16 10 26 8 18 21 26 21 18 14 26
O
15 18 23 26 12

Hint: Greg’s article



ACROSS

- 3. His collection is coming up for sale.
- 4. When a coin is surrounded by a metal ring.
- 5. His collection had no Indian cents.
- 7. What is left after touching a coin.
- 8. What is used to put a date on a die.

DOWN

- 1. His space is filled with back issues of Longacre's Ledger.
- 2. When a letter is stamped into a coin.
- 4. A place where strange things happened.
- 6. His collection had pattern Indian cents.



Stack's Bowers Galleries Announces New Philadelphia Gallery



Stack's Bowers Galleries is proud to announce plans for a new rare coin gallery in historic Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, scheduled to open to collectors in late summer 2021. Located at 1735 Market Street on the corner of 18th Street and John F. Kennedy Boulevard, the new gallery is situated in the heart of Center City, in the midst of the area's best dining, shopping, and entertainment. It is just blocks away from such iconic landmarks as the Comcast Center, Reading Terminal, and beautiful Philadelphia City Hall. It is also a 15-minute walk to the 30th Street Amtrak station, granting convenient access to collectors across the entire Northeast. With the opening of this new gallery, Stack's Bowers Galleries is thrilled to unite America's greatest numismatic city with the country's most accomplished rare coin firm.



Robert Avena
Head Numismatic Trader

This Philadelphia location will offer the firm's entire range of numismatic services. Collectors will be able to sell their coins and paper money for top market value and browse an extensive selection of items available for direct purchase. The gallery will also serve as an important resource for gold and silver bullion trading, appraisals, and auction expertise.

The Philadelphia gallery will be led by Head Numismatic Trader Robert Avena, one of the industry's most respected experts. Mr. Avena has been active in the rare coin industry for many decades, having started his own coin firm in the early 1980s before joining Stack's Bowers Galleries in 2000. During that time, he has attended every major convention and auction and has handled the most valuable rarities in United States coinage. Stack's Bowers Galleries is also seeking to hire experienced numismatic specialists along with other staff for the new gallery. Interested candidates are invited to send resumes and cover letters to Careers@stacksbowers.com.

For over 85 years, Stack's Bowers Galleries has served as the hobby's premier resource for collectors. The debut of the firm's Philadelphia location is the latest in a series of improvements by Stack's Bowers Galleries aimed at delivering superior value and service, including new corporate headquarters in Costa Mesa, California and a new flagship gallery on Park Avenue in New York City. In addition, the acquisition of Carter Numismatics and the Coins in Motion imaging technology enhances the firm's world-renowned expertise and innovative technology. For more information about the Philadelphia rare coin gallery, call 800-458-4646 or e-mail Info@StacksBowers.com.

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